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Memorandum for: John Helgerson, ADDI

From: NESA/SO/S

86-2494 25X1

Subject: Congressional Briefing on Population Dynamics and
Political Stability

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 (ALA) and I briefed the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on Population Issues today. The invitation to brief the caucus on how the CIA looks at the relationship between population change and security issues came from Congressman John Porter (R-ILL) through the Congressional Liaison office. The hour-long meeting attracted five other Members of Congress (Levin D-Mich, Scheuer D-NY, Moody D-Wisc, Beilenson D-Calif, Fawell R-ILL), twenty staffers, and representatives of the Department of State and the nongovernmental Population Institute.

In the briefing we described the ways in which rapid population growth, resulting youthful age structures, international migration, differences in rates of growth and migration by ethnic and sectarian groups, and rapid urban growth impinge on political stability. We illustrated with examples from India, Egypt, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Mexico.

The Congressmen asked questions about the substance and consumers of our work. They were interested in whether we had "counterparts" at DOD and whether we cooperated with State and AID. We explained that we had no direct counterparts at Defense, but that DOD was an important consumer. We assured them we cooperated with State and AID.

Today's appearance resulted from a briefing we did for Congressman Porter and his staff in May. Porter actively supports population assistance programs on the hill and is interested in amplifying members' understanding of the links between population growth and political instability. I met a member of his staff, Phylis Albritton, at a conference in April sponsored by the American Assembly at Columbia University. I attended the conference on Agency sponsorship and marketed the briefing at the time. The staffer followed up with invitations to brief.

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